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TIENTSIN, NORTHEAST ENTERPRISES IMPROVE PRODUCTS;
4,000 SHANGHAI FIRMS CLOSE

TIENTSIN ENTERPRISES HOLD COMPETITIONS -- Tientsin Jih-pao, 1 Jun 50

Forty production units, representing 70 state and publicly operated production enterprises and 60,000 employees, have joined the competitive production speed-up movement in Tientsin. A number of nonproduction enterprises, such as the post office, telecommunications and shipping companies, have also joined the movement. A coordination committee gives unified leadership and promotion. Party and Youth Corps members in the factories have by promotion and example done much to aid the program. Practically all enterprises enrolled showed production above targets for May 1950.

The Tientsin Steel Company, the two shops of the electrical works, the bicycle factory, automotive assembly plant, the six mills and seven dyeing works of the China Textiles Industry Corporation, the wire factory, flour mill, eight bone glue works, and the Wei-hsin Chemical Works, all operated by the Municipal Bureau of Industry, reached or exceeded their production targets. Many new production records were established.

The new Martin furnace of the steel company exceeded production targets by 65 percent, manganese steel 22 percent, strap iron by 10 percent, cast steel articles by 13 percent, and steel cable by 110 percent. The No 2 electrical works produced 120 more 3-horsepower motors than in April.

Five mills of the China Textiles Industry Corporation produced a total of 13,894 bales of yarn and 308,644 bolts of cloth. The sixth mill produced yarn 10.81 percent and cloth 3.23 percent above the production target.

At the same time waste of raw materials and seconds have been practically eliminated.

Products inspection and record systems have been set up or improved. Standards of responsibility for machinery and tools and warehouse control systems have been improved in many factories.

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Certain weaknesses remain: (1) some factories are not strict in planning; (2) some use improper methods to raise the efficiency of workers; (3) some managements give insufficient attention to constructive suggestions; and (4) inspection systems are still inadequate.

TIENTSIN STATE, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IMPROVE OUTPUT -- Tientsin Jih-pao, 31 May 50

Under the spur of competitive contests, the quality of many products of Tientsin's state and publicly operated industries has risen and some units have superseded set standards.

The products of the Tientsin Steel-Manufacturing Company improved in quality from 4 to 30 percent to exceed the target.

Included among its products are steel ingots, strap iron, bamboo-joint steel Probably concrete reinforcing rods and manganese steel, representing about 90 percent of this firm's production.

Bicycles have been improved and made lighter. Auto and bicycle tires show improvement.

Hydrogen sulfide produced by the Wei-hsin Chemical Works has improved by 73 percent over the noncompetitive period.

All seconds have been eliminated from the nail output of the Tientsin Wire Company.

Competition has also brought improvement in the Municipal Bureau of Industry factories producing needles, flour, fire-resistant materials, and bone glue.

One reason for this improvement is increased interest on the part of workers in improving their individual and group output. This has been stimulated further by competition campaigns. In the Tientsin Steel Works a goal was set of improving first-class products up to 80 percent and reducing rejects by 50 percent. Other industries have followed suit.

Technical improvement training programs have also been established. Technicians have entered into teacher-learner contracts with workmen to teach both theory and practice. Thus, the skills of all are raised.

In the No 2 electrical works a record of construction of a 3 horsepower motor in 50 hours was set.

Various award plans have also been set in operation to stimulate interest. Incentive has also been stimulated in watching the quality of products.

However, some factories have placed the whole emphasis on quantity alone, and have adopted various speed-up devices that have resulted in reduced quality.

NORTHEAST IMPROVES RUBBER, CEMENT PRODUCTS -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 12 Jun 50

Mukden, 3 June (Hsin-hua) -- The eight rubber plants of the Northeast Ministry of Light Industries have been showing steady improvements in their output during the last year. The rubber used in automobile tires is above standard requirements in tensile strength and resilience and that used in rubber shoes is very durable and popular with purchasers.

Costs have fallen while quality has risen and rejects have largely disappeared.

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In the cement industry, too, both quantity and quality of products has been rising, while costs have fallen nearly 100 percent. Manufacture of this product is under control of the Bureau of Construction Materials. Production ran 25 percent over the target for January. Although the production target for April was 150 percent of January production, it was exceeded by 35 percent and quality in all cement works was above the national standard.

HIGH TAXES MAIN CAUSE -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao, 2 Jun 50

Hong Kong, 1 June (Reuters) -- According to reports from a certain Shanghai newspaper, approximately 4,000 Shanghai business establishments closed their doors during the 8-month period from August 1949 to March 1950. Among these, 1,000 are factories and 2,000 are commercial houses. Reports list three reasons for closure: low purchasing power of the people, generally excessive expenses, and erratic commercial policies. But all agree that the chief cause is excessive taxes.

Another Chinese news source states that the various Shanghai firms, under the new system of "democratic discussion," had to pay a total of 400 billion yuan, equal to 11,500,000 US dollars, in industrial and commercial taxes during the months of March, April, and May.

A Shanghai paper reports that a certain economist says he has faith in the ability of Shanghai businessmen to pay these amounts because, in March 1950, Shanghai commercial interests bought victory bonds amounting to 500 billion yuan, equal to 17,000,000 US dollars, and paid 498,300,000 yuan, equal to 17,000,000 US dollars, in taxes -- a total of 1,100,000,000 yuan for the two items. He further states that this amount is only 40 percent of the total industrial and commercial tax levy.

FOREIGN FIRMS MUST DETERMINE TAX QUOTAS -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao, 2 Jun 50

According to a statement from the Bureau of Direct Taxes, Shanghai foreign merchants are being required to participate in meetings to determine tax quotas, lest they be suspected of tax evasion. Foreign merchants shall also instruct their executive agencies to do the same. The new policy promulgated in April 1950 requires all commercial enterprises in Shanghai, under the management of whatever nationals, to pay taxes as determined, effective from March 1950.

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